Book critique: “The Last Lecture”

Author: Randy Pausch
Jeffrey Zaslow

Chang Cao
YNCenter video conference, Nanjing
28th Mar, 2014
Book review

• The last lecture
• Really achieving your childhood dreams
• Adventures and lessons learned
• Enabling the dreams of others
• It’s about how to live your life
• Final remarks
Randy Pausch

October 23, 1960 Baltimore, Maryland, USA

Bachelor’s degree, Computer Science, Brown University, 1982

Ph.D, Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, 1988

He was granted tenure one year early in University of Virginia, 1988-1997

Professor of computer science and human-computer interaction and design, Carnegie Mellon University

Five books and over 60 papers (author or co-author)
The Dream Fulfillment Factory

Don Marinelli (Drama)

Randy Pausch (CS)

(From Randy, 2007)

Chapter 26, 《The last lecture》
The Infinitely Scalable Dream Factory

And I guess this makes me the mad hatter…

http://www.alice.org/index.php  Chapter 27, 《The last lecture》
Pancreatic cancer (2006)

3 to 6 months to live (2007)

3 kids and his beloved wife...

“to teach my children what I would have taught them over the next twenty years”

—Randy
“Journeys” Lecture: Really achieving your childhood dreams (2007.9)

Make the world stop and pay attention

(CMU website)

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May 30, 2008

Dr. Randy Pausch
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Randy:

I am deeply moved by your brave battle with cancer. Your extraordinary story has helped to uplift the hearts of millions of Americans. The strong character you have displayed has set a fine example for others, and your courage and determination are an inspiration to all.

Thank you for your unswerving commitment to our Nation's youth. By building the minds of our country's students, you enrich lives and motivate others to achieve their full potential. Your love of family, dedication in the classroom, and passion for teaching will stand as a lasting legacy, and I am grateful for your willingness to serve. Your efforts reflect the best of the American spirit.

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Laura and I send our prayers for your strength and comfort, and we hope you are sustained by your faith and the love and support of family and friends.

Stay strong, and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

George W. Bush
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Randy’s Childhood dreams
Getting to Zero G

Have something to bring to the table, because that will make you more welcome.

Chapter 6
Play in the NFL

Fundamentals & hard work
Build self-esteem

Your critics are often the one telling you they still love you and care about you, and want you to make you better.

Chapter 7

He Never Made it to the NFL

Experience is what you get when you did not get what you wanted.

Chapter 39
Being an author in the World Book Encyclopedia

Need a dictionary to get through dinner

Chapter 4

Virtual reality

Chapter 8
Being/Meeting Captain Kirk

Leadership; in charge of morale

Chapter 9

Chrisma
Who know what he does not know and willing to admit it, and does not want to leave until he understands.

I don’t believe in the no-win scenario.
Winning stuffed animals
Being an Imagineer
Jon Snoddy

Turned him down when Randy got PhD
Six-month sabbatical as an Imagineer in
Walt Disney, 1995

Chapter 11
Brick walls are there for a reason: they let us prove how badly we want things.
• Randy’s childhood dreams nearly all related with his future career.
• Dream big dreams. If you have your own, live with them and stick on them.

If you can dream, you can do it.
-Walt Disney
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Most impressed

• Personal improvement

1) Manage time:
   - To-do list; on the right things; creative/dead time
   - Or

2) Be optimistic

3) Full prepared/worst-case scenario

Luck is indeed where preparation meets opportunity.
• Living with others

**Work in groups:** Let people talk; find things in common

**Apology**

★ Look for the best of everybody

**Others-oriented**
Randy Pausch Memorial Footbridge

Gates center for CS

Purnell center for the arts

November 9th, Randy Pausch Day, Pittsburgh
What makes me unique?

Having your *inner compass*.
Read more

Read beyond your field.

You are what you read.
Make the most of each day!

If you lead your life the right way, the karma will take care of itself. The dreams will come to you.

-Randy
Know more about Randy